

MULTILAYER POLYMERIC/INORGANIC OXIDE STRUCTURE WITH TOP  
COAT FOR ENHANCED GAS OR VAPOR BARRIER AND METHOD FOR  
MAKING SAME

5 Abstract of the Invention

The coated multilayer structure comprising a polymeric base layer, an inorganic oxide gas barrier layer on a surface of the polymeric base layer, and a top coat on the inorganic oxide gas barrier layer, the top coat comprising a soluble compound capable of reducing the permeability of the multilayer structure to gas or vapor. A method for enhancing the gas or vapor barrier properties of a multilayer polymeric/inorganic oxide structure is also disclosed. According to one embodiment, SiO<sub>x</sub> coated polyethylene terephthalate containers are coated with a gas or vapor barrier enhancing top coat.